

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: DECONTROL AFTER ONE YEAR

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, IT

SUBJECT: LABOR-GOILARGREE ON PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

REF: ROME 14874

1. FOLLOWING INCONCLUSIVE EIGHT HOUR MEETING ON OCTOBER 14, LEADERS OF THE FEDERATION CGIL-CISL-UIL (CCU) AND THE GOI REACHED SUBSTANTIAL AGREEMENT LATE ON OCTOBER 16 REGARDING THE PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT SECTOR. THE NEGOTIATORS, LED BY PRIME MINISTER ALDO MORO, AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS IN ADVANCE OF THE EXPIRATION EARLY NEXT YEAR OF CONTRACTS INVOLVING THREE MILLION WORKERS IN PUBLIC SECTOR. IN THE MEANTIME RAILROAD WORKERS, POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH AND TOBACCO MONOPOLY EMPLOYEES (APPROXIMATELY 500,000 IN ALL) WILL RECEIVE WAGE INCREASES BACK-DATED TO JULY 1, 1975 IN ANTICIPATION OF FURTHER WAGE ADJUSTMENTS. WHILE AMOUNTS ARE NOT FIRMLY ESTABLISHED, IT IS EXPECTED THE RAILWAY WORKERS WILL RECEIVE 27,000 LIRE (ONE DOLLAR EQUALS APPROXIMATELY 675 LIRE) PER MONTH; POSTAL-TELEGRAPH AND TOBACCO MONOPOLY WORKERS, 25,000

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LIRE. SPECIFICS REGARDING THESE THREE ADVANCES ARE TO BE

WORKED OUT IN A SERIES OF MEETINGS BEGINNING OCTOBER 20.

2. THE SUBJECT AGREEMENT AVOIDED A THREATENED GOVERNMENT CRISIS RESULTING FROM THE OPPOSITION OF DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER UGO LAMALFA (PRI) TO CCU DEMANDS THAT A PENDING SPECIAL ALLOWANCE FOR TAX DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES BE RESCINDED. THE ALLOWANCE WAS AGREED TO BY THE GOI FOLLOWING A 100 DAY STRIKE BY AUTONOMOUS UNIONS WHICH SERIOUSLY AFFECTED THE COLLECTION OF GOVERNMENT REVENUE. LAMALFA REGARDED THE PROMISED ALLOWANCE AS A MATTER OF HONOR AND THREATENED TO WITHDRAW FROM THE GOVERNMENT IF PRESSED HARD ON THE ISSUE BY THE CCU. COMPROMISE WAS ARRIVED AT BY RETAINING THE AMOUNT PREVIOUSLY AGREED TO FOR THE TAX WORKERS BUT CHANGING TERMINOLOGY TO QUOTE SPECIAL TEMPORARY INCENTIVE UNQUOTE INSTEAD OF QUOTE SPECIAL ALLOWANCE UNQUOTE. THEORY IS THAT ONLY THOSE TAX WORKERS WHO CONTRIBUTE TOWARD ELIMINATION OF SERIOUS WORK BACKLOG WILL RECEIVE THE ADDITIONAL SUM.

3. COMMENT. THIS AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CCU AND GOI RESOLVES AT LEAST FOR THE TIME BEING DIFFICULTIES IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR AND ALLOWS ATTENTION TO BE FOCUSED ON NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN UNIONS AND PRIVATE EMPLOYERS ON CONTRACTS INVOLVING AN ADDITIONAL FOUR MILLION WORKERS. THE SUBJECT AGREEMENT IN ADDITION TO AVOIDING A GOVERNMENT CRISIS ESTABLISHES A TACIT ALLIANCE BETWEEN THE CCU AND THE GOI AGAINST THE AUTONOMOUS UNIONS. VOLPE

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